

THE GRADUATE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE SOCIETY *SINCE 19*(





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- Philosophy
- 12 Political Science
- Psychology
- 14 Social Work
- Sociology
- South Asian Studies
- Southeast Asian Studies



faculty who are not only prolific academics in their own right but are also well versed in the local context. FASS, NUS scores highly in terms of global ranking. My prior engagement with the faculty members in the Department of Sociology, and in particular my thesis supervisor, assured me that my graduate training would be nothing short of comprehensive and one that would include an appreciation of Singapore as a subject of sociological inquiry given that my research field is also located here. FASS, NUS offers a competitive stipend. There are also several opportunities for graduate students to come together to form reading groups, to organise workshops and seminars all of which provide an enriching learning experience.

> Lavanya Balachandran Graduated in 2017 with a PhD in Sociology

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow members

ome January 2018, Professor Tan Eng Chye will take over as NUS President from Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, and Professor Ho Teck Hua will become Senior Deputy President and Provost.

On behalf of the Society, I would like to congratulate Prof Tan and Prof Ho on their appointments. NUSS and NUS have always had a close and warm relationship and I look forward to taking this symbiotic partnership forward. Our heartfelt appreciation also goes to Professor Tan Chorh Chuan for his unwavering support of NUSS and we wish him all the best in his new appointment.

This year, the Society has made good progress despite the volatile economic environment. In April, we launched the members' rights issue to grant each member the privilege to introduce a friend or family member to become an NUSS member at special rates and to enjoy the many membership privileges that NUSS has to offer. Some 600* members have since exercised this right, and we are delighted to welcome our new members to the NUSS family.

At this year's Strategic Meeting in July 2017, the Management Committee and Senior Management put in place a three-pronged strategy to deepen our engagement with members and the wider graduate community.

1. Creating a better membership experience.

A new Membership Experience Sub-Committee seeks to enhance membership experiences and foster a deeper sense of belonging to NUSS. Besides improving our facilities, the Sub-Committee has plans for a series of events, such as the Induction to Mini Guilds as part of our Lifecycle Management Programme, to promote a greater sense of camaraderie amongst members and create a second home for them at our Guild Houses.

2. Establishing more value-added membership privileges.

The Society will continue to explore more potential tie-ups with thirdparty partners to offer members a broader and more engaging range of membership benefits and events.

3. Developing a new Club Management System (CMS).

Having an efficient CMS that incorporates the latest technologies is key to the success of our strategic initiatives. Come 23 October 2017, a General Meeting will be convened to seek your approval for the new CMS. Please come and give your support. Besides ensuring more effective running of our operations, the CMS will also facilitate the revamp of the Graduate Network – a virtual platform to engage third-party partners and build a connected graduate community online.

I thank you for your continued support and welcome you to come and patronise our facilities often!







Yours sincerely

Eddie Lee President





*Each member is entitled to two complimentary passes, subject to availability. Additional passes can be purchased at a discounted price.

Terms and conditions apply.









THE GRADUATE

THE GRADUATE IS THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE SOCIETY (NUSS)









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NUSS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2017/2018
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HIGHLIGHTS







SMALL STATES WITH BIG ACHIEVEMENTS

What do Singapore and Switzerland have in common? More than just their size, said the Ambassador of Switzerland to Singapore in an address to NUSS members.

oing by geographical size, Switzerland and Singapore are classified as small states. The two countries are thousands of miles apart but have a lot in common, such as a strong regard for the rule of law.

Both "have big neighbours, successful economies and place high importance on good governance, higher education and free trade," said His Excellency Thomas Kupfer, the Ambassador of Switzerland to Singapore.

Decades ago, Singapore aspired to achieve a Swiss standard of living. Today, "there are areas where Singapore has developed strongly and, with a top-down system, faster than us," Mr Kupfer said. In other areas, Switzerland is more traditional in approach, he said. This explains the significant amount of information sharing between the two countries, he added.

Mr Kupfer was addressing members as part of NUSS' Meet-The-Ambassador Series. He is the 14th foreign dignitary invited to speak to members since the series was introduced in 2009.

In a wide-ranging presentation on 10 July, he touched on Switzerland's education system and its perspective on immigration and digitalisation, among others.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Mr Kupfer has been the Ambassador of Switzerland to Singapore since September 2012.
- 2 He was Secretary General of the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva from 2003 to 2004.
- 3 Mr Kupfer read law at the University of Zurich and was called to the Bar in Zurich in 1981. He joined the diplomatic service in 1983.
- He has held different positions within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Bern, Switzerland; and overseas, including the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, Rome and Colombia.

NUSS President Eddie Lee said that the series "provide a forum for ambassadors to share their insights on foreign policies, and stimulate discussion on foreign relations and global developments."

The evening started with a Q&A session, during which the audience wanted to know how Switzerland and Singapore could work together. In response, Mr Kupfer said that while distance made it difficult to collaborate on projects, pointers could still be exchanged between the two countries on topics like education and emerging technologies.

Mr Kupfer also had a fresh take on the definition of a "small state". Singapore is home to 5.6 million people, while Switzerland has a population of close to 8.5 million, Mr Kupfer noted. However, besides land area and population, other factors should be taken into consideration, he said.

"We are not that small as we haven't talked about economic power, science, education, universities, standard of living, quality of life," he explained. "For instance, (Singapore) has a very strong army. It also has a very strong economy and in this sense, I would say Singapore places quite well in the international field."

Attendees loved the fresh insights. Software engineer Ian Leow said: "I felt that the talk was very informative. It's not every day that you get a foreign view on important issues."

For Ms Leo Kwang Lin, a freelance trainer, the session was an eye-opener. "The whole idea of inviting the ambassadors is to broaden our perspectives and understand how outsiders look at Singapore," she said. "From what they share, we can get a clearer idea of who we are – a small but powerful country."

AN EVENING OF FUN AND BONDING

NUSS welcomes new members with entertaining performances and a delicious dinner spread.





ew members of The National University of Singapore Society (NUSS) were treated to an evening of good food, performances and company at the Kent Ridge Guild House on 26 July. The New Members' Night was an opportunity for new and current members to meet, mingle and network in a relaxed and casual setting.

"This event is a chance for new members to find out more about the Society first-hand and understand our mission and vision," said Mr Eddie Lee. NUSS President. "It also fosters closer relationships and builds familiarity with the Management Committee, the various conveners and secretariat, and allows new members to meet one another."

The conveners and chairpersons for the different sections and subcommittees welcomed the new members, bringing warmth and a sense of family to the occasion. "Perhaps our greatest strength is our people and the feeling of belonging that comes from being a member here," Mr Lee added. In his welcome speech, Mr Lee highlighted the activities offered by NUSS, which cover intellectual pursuits, sports and recreation, and active ageing and lifelong learning. "Our activities cater to different interests and age groups, making NUSS an inclusive and a welcoming place to be."

Mr Roy Higgs, the Society's CEO, took to the stage to speak about the benefits offered to members, such as the various facilities at the two Guild Houses and complimentary access to premium lounges at Changi Airport's Terminals 1 and 3. NUSS members also enjoy reciprocal privileges with graduate associations around the world.

This year, Mr Higgs said, the Society launched a new initiative as well - the Lifecycle Management Programme - to engage existing members and improve their experiences as members of NUSS. This is done through various initiatives such as a Members' Anniversary Bash to celebrate long-term NUSS members, and Induction to Mini Guilds, where existing members introduce new members to NUSS' Guild Houses. Besides the Lifecycle Management Programme, NUSS would continue to engage new members through both traditional and new media platforms.

For some members, the activities, services and offerings mentioned









by Mr Lee and Mr Higgs are key factors for joining the Club. For others, it's the opportunity to make new friends and network.

New member Mrs Rosita Chua chose NUSS not only because of the proximity of the Kent Ridge Guild House to her home, but also because of the services and courses offered there. "I'm particularly interested in the 'Real Estate Wealth Management for Seniors' course. I'd also like to take up the 'Managing your Finances after Retirement' course – hopefully, this will help me get the maximum value out of my assets," Mrs Chua explained.

Ms Lindy Ooi, another new member, said bonding with her friends at the Club drew her to join NUSS. Another reason – the delicious food served at the Kent Ridge Guild House. "I love the Teochew porridge buffet here. There's a wide selection of dishes to choose from – boiled, fried, steamed, braised, even pickled!" she added.

One thing both new members agreed on: What sets NUSS apart from other clubs is its strong support for its alma mater and its efforts in promoting the interests of members and the graduate community. In addition, the Society strives to contribute to Singapore's political and intellectual development, and cultivate a more gracious social and cultural environment.

As dinner was served, NUSS DramaWorks presented an exuberant rendition of Katy Perry's *Firework*. Towards the close of the evening, new members joined the NUSS Choir for a performance. Together, they presented a perfectly harmonised classic Chinese tune and a jaunty medley of English songs.

The evening rounded off with a delectable dessert buffet and lucky draw, both of which added to the occasion's joyous mood and convivial atmosphere.

(TOP LEFT) CURRENT AND NEW MEMBERS GOT TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER BETTER OVER DINNER AND DRINKS

(BOTTOM LEFT)
THE NUSS CHOIR
ENTERTAINED WITH
CLASSIC CHINESE
TUNES AND A
MEDLEY OF ENGLISH
SONGS

(TOP CENTRE)
MEMBERS ENJOYED
AN EVENING OF
MINGLING AND
NETWORKING

(BOTTOM CENTRE)
MEMBERS TOOK THE
OPPORTUNITY TO
TAKE PICTURES WITH
NUSS PRESIDENT
MR EDDIE LEE (THIRD
FROM RIGHT) AND
NUSS CEO MR ROY
HIGGS (FAR LEFT).

DID YOU KNOW?

Honorary
Members of
the Society include
Prime Minister Mr
Lee Hsien Loong
and Emeritus
Senior Minister
Mr Goh Chok Tong.

2 NUSS currently has two guild houses – one in Kent Ridge and the other in Suntec City.

3The Club currently has 15,000 members, with 70 per cent made up of NUS graduates.



A WORTHY APPOINTMENT

LIM CHWEE TECK Appointed NUSS Professor on 1 July, 2017

Professor,
Department
of Biomedical
Engineering, NUS

Principal Investigator, Mechanobiology Institute, NUS

Faculty Fellow, Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research & Technology

His passion

Professor Lim is an engineer, inventor and entrepreneur. He loves problem-solving – it is what drives him to innovate, create and commercialise new products.

Early achievements

In the early 2000s, Professor Lim and his team developed a device for "crashtesting" mobile phones and other portable electronic devices. He co-founded a startup and worked with Nokia, Research In Motion and Motorola. rofessor Lim Chwee Teck is the first full-time professor at NUS to be conferred the NUSS Professorship. We speak to him about his new role and what he hopes to achieve for the Society.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR APPOINTMENT?

I'm honoured to be bestowed this recognition as a Singaporean, NUS alumnus and NUSS member.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE DURING YOUR TENURE?

One of the first things I'd like to do is conduct a series of lectures for members and the public, to share with them the exciting biomedical engineering research at NUS and how it benefits society. On 15 November, I will be conducting a lecture for members on emerging medical technologies for precision medicine or personalised treatment. Through lectures like this, I hope to inform the public about the importance of research, and how they can play their part in supporting such efforts. I'm also looking forward to sharing my entrepreneurship experiences with members.

WHAT IS YOUR MAIN AREA OF RESEARCH AND EXPERTISE?

I'm a mechanical engineer by training, but my research now focuses on mechanobiology and biomedical engineering. I conduct research on diseases and develop devices that can better diagnose and treat patients.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO PURSUE YOUR INTEREST IN MECHANOBIOLOGY, DISEASE DETECTION AND HEALTHCARE?

It excites me when I am able to see our projects through all its stages, from lab to bedside. It brings me even greater satisfaction to see my work making an impact in the healthcare sector and patients' lives.

WHAT IS YOUR KEY ACHIEVEMENT IN THE AREA OF GLOBAL RESEARCH?

In 2009, I co-founded a company, Clearbridge Biomedics, to commercialise a biochip that allows us to isolate cancer cells from a patient's blood - a process known as liquid biopsy. With this technology, healthcare professionals can capture and analyse circulating cancer cells with greater accuracy in a shorter time frame. This test can provide realtime feedback on the condition of a patient, allowing doctors to closely track the disease's progression and provide immediate and personalised treatment. This invention won the President's Technology Award in 2011 and the Wall Street Journal Asian Innovation Award in 2012. Today, our technology is used in more than 60 locations here and around the world, such as in the US, UK. Japan and China.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS?

Create an innovative solution that solves a societal need. You also need to be passionate and have the perseverance to see it through.

YOU'VE BEEN AN NUSS MEMBER SINCE 1999. WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE?

I once took up a business Mandarin course to improve my communication skills. Through this course, I had the opportunity to connect with fellow members who were also looking to hone their Mandarin speaking skills. It was nice to have so many likeminded people in the same room!

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO SEE NUSS ACHIEVE IN THE FUTURE?

I would like to see NUSS become 'the place' for meaningful engagements between members and their alma mater.

"I would like to see NUSS become 'the place' for meaningful engagements between members and their alma mater"

Awards & Credentials

- International Precision Medicine Conference Prize, 2017
- ASEAN Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award, 2016
- IES Prestigious Engineering Achievement Award, 2016
- Asian Scientist 100, 2016
- Elected Fellow, American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering, 2016 – Present
- Gold, Wall Street Journal Asian Innovation Awards, 2012
- Credit Suisse Technopreneur of the Year Award, 2012
- President's Technology Award, 2011

REFLECTING ON THE PAST, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

TAN CHORH CHUAN
Appointed President
of NUS in 2008

Professor of Medicine, NUS

Chairman, Board of the National University Health System

Deputy Chairman, Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)

Member, Board of Directors, Monetary Authority of Singapore

Member, Board of Directors, Mandai Park Holdings

His passion

Professor Tan
enjoys Chinese
landscape painting –
some of his paintings
can be found at the
Kent Ridge Guild
House. He also
indulges in trekking,
birdwatching and
scuba-diving during
his free time.



t the end of this year, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan will step down as NUS President. He shares his

experiences at and hopes for NUS and the Society.

CAN YOU SHARE A RECENT MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE AT NUS?

It was participating in the NUS Day of Service 2017. It was heart-warming and touching to see our staff, members and students volunteering their time for activities like taking underprivileged seniors grocery shopping, distributing food packs to needy families and cleaning up Tanah Merah beach.

WHAT WERE SOME CHALLENGES YOU FACED DURING YOUR PRESIDENCY?

A university is a talent organisation. Like all talent organisations, a continual challenge is recruiting, nurturing and retaining world-class faculty and staff to create an environment that's vibrant and forward thinking and that continues making an impact in the community and at the global level. It's about fostering a mindset of continually doing better. Another challenge is sustaining NUS' pace of change and seizing the right opportunities to truly excel. These are still a work in progress and require commitment and constant reinforcement from the top.

NUS HAS COME A LONG WAY IN
IMPROVING ITS RANKING
INTERNATIONALLY (NUS WAS
RECENTLY RANKED ASIA'S TOP
UNIVERSITY). WHAT MORE CAN BE
DONE TO BOOST NUS' POSITIONING?
I'm confident that NULS will

I'm confident that NUS will continue breaking new ground

and sustain its steep trajectory as a leading university globally. But of course, more can be done. With 38,000 students and more than 10,000 staff members, it's important to continue building a mindset and culture of wanting to do better across all parts of the university. This alignment and sense of purpose is critical if we want to stand out as a university distinct from all others.

NUS AND NUSS HAVE FORGED A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP OVER THE YEARS. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THIS PARTNERSHIP AND HOW HAS IT HELPED NUS AND NUSS ACHIEVE THEIR MUTUAL GOALS?

It's a warm and close relationship with shared vision and goals. For instance, in 2013, NUSS spearheaded a bursary programme through the Alumni Student Advancement Committee to enable bright but financially needy students to study at NUS, thus supporting our goal to provide such students with the opportunity to realise their potential and get a good university education. I must add that it's always fun to work with the NUSS team: it's like working with family. We also enjoy each other's company during social events, which reflects our multi-level relationship.

YOU'RE ALSO AN HONORARY MEMBER OF NUSS – HOW HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEEN SO FAR?

I'm honoured to be bestowed this prestigious membership – it places me firmly as a member of the Society. It also allows me to meet and mingle with members at different events like *Lo Hei* dinners and welcome nights (for new members and committees).

WHAT DO YOU HOPE FOR NUS AND NUSS TO ACHIEVE TOGETHER IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

I would say for NUSS to continue playing a critical and valuable role in the University community as the next NUS leadership team strives to deepen our engagement with our alumni and build on what has already been achieved. NUS looks forward to continuing our close relationship with NUSS.

CONGRATULATIONS!

NUSS congratulates
Prof Tan on his new
appointment as
Singapore's first Chief
Health Scientist and
Executive Director of the
new Office for Healthcare
Transformation at the
Ministry of Health.

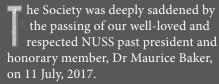
Key achievements

- Professor Tan played a key role in setting up the Duke-NUS Medical School and Yale-NUS College.
- He was also the first Chief Executive of the National University Health System, and brought the NUS Medical and Dental Schools and the National University Hospital under single governance.



NUSS REMEMBERS

DR MAURICE BAKER



Dr Baker, who was 97 when he passed away, led a remarkable career as an esteemed diplomat with excellent college connections. Besides his dedication to serve the nation, he had a soft spot for the Society. He strongly believed in establishing a robust graduate community since graduates "being the elite and best educated people... could have a positive influence in Singapore".

Driven by this belief, Dr Baker – and two other former Society Presidents, Paul Abisheganaden and Professor Kiang Ai Kim – worked with determination to secure a permanent ground for graduates to get together and network. In 1960, after the Society had been homeless for years, the trio successfully requested from Mr B R Sreenivasan, then Principal of the Singapore Division of the University of Malaya, to use the ground floor of 7 Cluny Road as the Society's first home.

The Society subsequently went on to build its presence with the acquisition of its first Guild House at 5 Dalvey Estate. However, in 1971, the Society was asked to



vacate the premises and thereafter moved to a small, dilapidated house in Evans Road.

Afraid that the Society might be asked to move again, Dr Baker's support was again sought. His strong negotiation skills – coupled with his firm belief in the Society's role and ability to bring graduates together – convinced Dr Toh Chin Chye (then University of Singapore's Vice-Chancellor) of the need for the Society to remain on campus.

Subsequently, Dr Baker stepped up to the role of Society President. Under his leadership, the Society turned its fortunes around and recorded a healthy credit balance. It also cemented its relationship with the University through collaborations and contributions such as a \$3,000 donation to purchase a gold medal for the top English Honours student each year.

The Society is extremely grateful to Dr Baker for his contributions and support. His presence will be fondly missed by both members and staff.

"We will cherish fond memories of Dr Baker as a warm-hearted friend and an avid supporter of the Society. As a former President of NUSS, Dr Baker was instrumental in cementing the relationship between the Society and the University in the 1970s and he remained passionate about building a robust graduate community even after he stepped down... We will miss his sound advice and guidance," said Mr Eddie Lee, President of NUSS. ■

HIS WIFE POSING WITH SINGAPORE'S LATE FORMER PRESIDENT MR S R NATHAN ISEATED, FAR RIGHTI, NUSS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND NUSS PAST PRESIDENTS, AT THE BOOK LAUNCH OF THE ACCIDENTAL DIPLOMAT





19 OCT

Building Leadership Capacity in Non-Profit Organisations

Are you an expert in accountancy, marketing, fundraising or strategic planning? Do you also enjoy volunteering? Join this talk by the Centre for Non-Profit Leadership and Company of Good to learn more about their programmes.



20 & 21 OCT

Drama Works Snapshots: A Tale of Four Stories

Watch NUSS Dramaworks members showcase their dramatic talents through their annual production, 'Snapshots'! Be inspired as they perform one-act plays to share what makes life worth living. Catch 'Snapshots: A Tale of Four Stories' at the Drama Centre.











4 NOV Singathon 2017

Get ready for enchanting performances by choristers from primary and secondary schools as part of the NUSS Choir's outreach programme. The event aims to nurture talents and expose choristers to the professional scene. Come and show them your support!

8-12 NOV Overseas Golf Trip to Chengdu

Join NUSS Golf Section for a 5D4N golf trip to Chengdu, China. Enjoy refreshing golf games and sightseeing activities with your family and friends!



MORE EVENT DETAILS AT NUSS.ORG.SG



18 NOV *Kids Combat Archery*

Get your kids moving and their adrenaline pumping in this fast-paced game, which combines elements of paintball, dodgeball and archery.

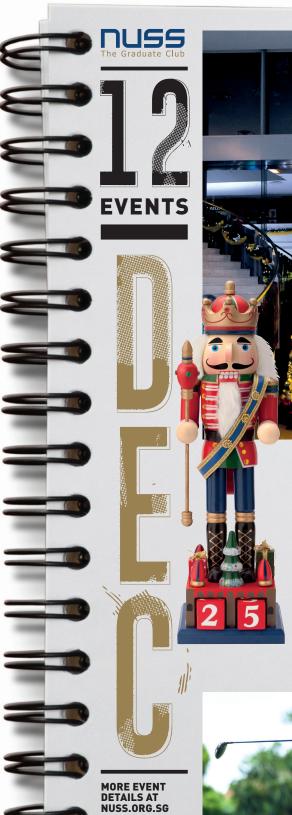




1 NOV-15 DEC

Comcare: Adopt-a-Wish 2017

Spread some love and kindness with this meaningful initiative, which seeks to fulfil the wishes of the underprivileged. Bring joy to them by adopting a wish and contributing gifts, such as clothing and accessories.





2 DECChristmas Light-up 2017

Join us at one of our most anticipated events of the year, the NUSS Christmas Light-up, for a night of fun activities and Christmas carols. Don't miss the chance to take photos with our very own Santa Claus!



Comcare: Children Christmas Bash 2017

December 2016

Bring smiles
to the faces of
underprivileged
children this
Christmas. Join us
as a volunteer at
this heartwarming
event organised by
our Community Care
Sub-Committee.



8 DECNUSS Golf AGM Tournament

A key highlight event in NUSS Golf Section's calendar, this golf tournament at Keppel Country Club promises great camaraderie and a sumptuous dinner at KRGH!

9 DEC

DanceSport: Christmas D&D

Join our enthusiastic DanceSport members for a joyous night of dancing, good food and great company at this annual Christmas celebration.





12 DEC

ALL-Together Christmas Party

Come and join the ALL
Sub-Committee for a
sumptuous buffet, sing-along
session and performances
at their annual Christmas
celebrations, specially
for seniors!



TEAM TENNIS 2017

17-18 JUNE 2017, TENNIS COURTS, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Friendly battle

Players of different skill levels duked it out at this annual event organised by the NUSS Tennis Section. The friendly competition saw section members battle for court supremacy in the Men's Doubles. Ladies' Doubles and Mixed Doubles categories. Despite several closely contested matches, participants - who were split into four teams and played a round-robin tournament on both days - put on a great show of sportsmanship while having fun socialising, exchanging skills and networking.



OVERSEAS GOLF TRIP TO PERTH

22-26 JUNE 2017, THE LINKS KENNEDY BAY, ARALUEN GOLF RESORT & THE CUT GOLF COURSE



Golfing down south

A golf trip to Perth brought together 34 NUSS Golf Section members for an exciting adventure. The trip kicked off at the challenging Links Kennedy Bay golf course, where one member warned, "Don't be fooled by its flat appearance!". Participants were also treated to beautiful sights at Araluen Golf Resort, where they enjoyed a game on the friendly fairways, before trooping off to a sumptuous lunch of baked salmon and chips. The final day was played at The Cut Golf Course, where views of the ocean provided an experience to remember. Members also took the opportunity to enjoy free bus rides around Perth, before heading home with renewed vigour and stronger friendships.

31ST GOLF ANNUAL

14 JULY 2017. SERAPONG COURSE, SENTOSA GOLF CLUB & KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

High spirits despite rain

Even the rain could not keep 142 Golf Section members. sponsors and quests away as they gathered for the 31st NUSS Golf Annual at Sentosa Golf Club. The event was eventually cancelled but the crowd remained enthusiastic as they adjourned to Kent Ridge Guild House to network over cocktails, a delicious feast and performances by K-Spin, which is made up of NUSS members. At the end of the night, 45 golfers walked away with lucky draw prizes. The grand winner, Carl Chan, won two Emirates airline tickets to either Dubai or Melbourne







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Badminton | Ballet | Karate

For registration and enquiries, please contact Gaby Leong at 6586 3744 or email gabyleong@nuss.org.sg

NATIONAL DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT 11 AUGUST 2017, CHANGI COURSE, NATIONAL SERVICE RESORT & COUNTRY CLUB

Bonding and givingEmeritus Senior Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong and 140 golf enthusiasts celebrated the country's 52nd birthday with NUSS at the National Day Golf Tournament.

The tournament was subsequently called off due to the weather, but that did not stop members from bonding over a lavish buffet lunch at Jumbo Restaurant and dinner at Suntec City Guild House. In between all the fun, members joined The Silverstones – the resident band of NUSS Music Section - to sing the national anthem, "Majulah Singapura" and National Day songs like "Home" and "Stand up for Singapore".

Attendees also did their part for the underprivileged community by pledging over \$20,000 for the TODAY Enable Fund, which supports people with disabilities.









SNOOKER INTRODUCTORY CLINIC 26 AUGUST 2017, SNOOKER ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Snooker tips

"Don't take too long on your shot" and "stay focused even when you miss" - these were some of the tips shared by Singapore's Open Champion Snooker player, Mr Alex Puan, during the three-hour session with members. Members listened and watched avidly as Mr Puan, a twotime champion and experienced snooker player, revealed his secrets to excellent billiard techniques with hands-on demonstrations.

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- Table-tennis
- Tennis





25TH ALUMNI INTERNATIONAL SINGAPORE INTER-ALUMNI TENNIS TOURNAMENT 2017 27 AUGUST 2017, TENNIS COURTS, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE



Forging stronger inter-alumni ties

Tennis teams from the Alumni of Taiwan Universities & Colleges (ATUC), the Association of Nanyang University Graduates, NUSS, the Australian Alumni Singapore (AAS) and the Canadian Alumni Singapore (CAS) gathered at Kent Ridge Guild House to build inter-club relations through a series of exciting matches and a delicious lunch. CAS was crowned this year's champion, with ATUC and NUSS coming in second and third respectively.

SENIORS AND FRIENDS GOLF OUTING

14-15 SEPTEMBER 2017, THE ELS CLUB DESARU COAST & HORIZON HILLS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Tee time

Fifty-seven golfers, including 20 seniors, came together to pit their skills against one another during a two-day trip to Desaru, Johor. Golfers were treated to great games and a splendid view of the coastline at The Els Club Desaru Coast on day one. On the second day, they maintained high spirits and enjoyed great fellowship over games at Horizon Hills Golf and Country Club. All in all, it was a short but memorable trip.



NUSS-NUS MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME: APPRECIATION DINNER 2017 16 AUGUST 2017, CLUNY, DALVEY & EVANS ROOMS, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Appreciating mentorship

Mentors and mentees who took part in the NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme AY2016/2017 were treated to an appreciation dinner organised by NUSS and NUS Office of Student Affairs.

The evening was graced by Mr Eugene Tan, Chairperson of the Alumni Development & University Relations (ADUR) Sub-Committee, and Associate Professor Vivian Ng, Vice-Dean of Students, NUS Office of Student Affairs. "It's nice to see many mentors who repeatedly volunteer their time for this programme," said A/Prof Ng.

Mentee Ms Emmalene Ng praised the programme, saying: "My mentor gives me a different perspective on various life issues, which I may otherwise not be aware of. I also get to talk to adults who are not my parents or teachers."

All 45 mentors and mentees, as well as members of the Management Committee and ADUR Sub-Committee, enjoyed interesting conversations over a delicious meal and an acoustic performance by NUS Amplified.







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BUSINESS STUDY MISSION TRIP TO PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA 30 AUGUST-2 SEPTEMBER 2017

Getting down to business

More than 30 members and guests made new business contacts in Cambodia during this fully-booked trip to Phnom Penh. They met and networked with their counterparts from Maybank Cambodia, The Council for the Development Cambodia, Singapore Club of Cambodia, and various other agencies.

"We managed to get an audience with various groups in both the public and private spheres thanks to the strength of the NUSS platform," said Lauren Ooi, a participant.

Participants also attended a talk by His Excellency Michael Tan – Singapore Ambassador to Cambodia – who spoke about business opportunities in the emerging market, and the long-standing economic relations and friendship between the two countries.

These first-hand engagements offered deep insights into Cambodia's growth potential. "I went with zero expectations and came back with a wealth of appreciation about Cambodia," said Ms Ooi.





COMCARE FUNDRAISING EVENT: WEAVING HOPE 2 27 JULY 2017, THE CAMPUS, COLLEGE & GUILD FUNCTION ROOMS, SUNTEC CITY GUILD HOUSE

Rugs to riches

The Community Care (ComCare) Sub-Committee and members raised close to \$38,000 at this charity carpet auction, which was opened by ComCare Sub-Committee Chairperson, Mr Archie Ong.

The generous bidders included NUSS President, Mr Eddie Lee, and members Mr Chua Joo Bin, Dr James Boss, Mr Chua Hung Meng, Dr Kevin Chua and Mr Andrew Leo, who donated their carpet to NUSS.

The carpet has been placed in the seating area of the NUSS Gallery at Kent Ridge Guild House. The proceeds raised will subsequently be used to fund ComCare Sub-Committee's various projects for the underprivileged, demonstrating and cementing the major role that NUSS plays in giving back to the community.





NUS DAY OF SERVICE - GROCERY SHOPPING WITH THE ELDERLY 9 SEPTEMBER 2017, GIANT HYPERMARKET, SUNTEC CITY

Aisles of smiles

Volunteers from NUS and NUSS played their part in supporting the underprivileged community by taking 40 low-income families from Yong En Care Centre on a fun grocery shopping trip. Each senior received a \$60 voucher to purchase groceries with the help of the volunteers. It was a morning filled with smiles, conversation and laughter, as both volunteers and seniors left with bags full of groceries. The event was jointly organised by the NUS Alumni Advisory Board and NUSS Community Care Sub-Committee.









SUB-COMMITTEE
WELCOME DINNER 2017
28 JULY 2017, DELLA &
SENG GEE GUILD HALL,
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

New beginnings

The Society warmly welcomed freshly inducted members of the 2017/2018 Sub-Committee with a dinner hosted by the Management Committee and senior secretariat staff Members enjoyed catching up with one another and making friends. NUSS President. Mr Eddie Lee, also took the opportunity to share the various Sub-Committees' key initiatives from the past year while Mr Johnny Tan, a Management Committee Member, discussed strategic plans for the Society.

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Members

To find out more, contact Kee Wei at 6586 3739 or keewei@nuss.org.sg





NUSS congratulates our members who were conferred the **National Day** Awards 2017. We share their pride and salute them for their contributions towards making a better Singapore.

Congratulations

NUSS Member	Award
Chay Wai Chuen	The Public Service Star
Ho Thiam Teng	The Public Service Star
Tan Thiam Soon	The Public Administration Medal (Gold)
Fong Chun Wah	The Public Administration Medal (Silver) (Bar)
Kwan Liam	The Public Administration Medal (Silver)
Tan Teck Hock	The Public Administration Medal (Silver)
Thien Kwee Eng	The Public Administration Medal (Silver)
Fan Yuen Fun	The Public Administration Medal (Bronze)
Ng Chin Chin	The Public Administration Medal (Bronze)
Ang Kok Cheng	The Commendation Medal
Chee Yu Yih	The Commendation Medal
Ng Wai Yee Sharon	The Commendation Medal
Tan Annie	The Commendation Medal
Tan Kek Ann	The Commendation Medal
Tan Lee Lian	The Commendation Medal
Tay Theng Hwee	The Commendation Medal
Toh Teck Wang	The Commendation Medal
Wei Suat Nee	The Commendation Medal
Ng Chee Kin	The Commendation Medal (Military)
Chan Kok Kong	The Public Service Medal
Goh Sor Imm	The Public Service Medal
Neo Keng Hoe	The Public Service Medal
Tung Siew Hoong	The Public Service Medal
Choo Hon Choong	The Efficiency Medal (Military)
Ang Johnny	The Long Service Medal
Chang Chaw-Chiea	The Long Service Medal
Chew Ling	The Long Service Medal
Chin Jing Jih	The Long Service Medal
Chong Suet Ling	The Long Service Medal
Hong Lai Fun	The Long Service Medal
Khoo Hwee Huang	The Long Service Medal
Kwek Tong Kiat	The Long Service Medal
Lee Lai Chan	The Long Service Medal
Lim Keng Jin	The Long Service Medal
Ng Kwek Wee	The Long Service Medal
Ng Lee Peng	The Long Service Medal
Tan Ai Ling	The Long Service Medal
Tan Annie	The Long Service Medal
Tan Boon Hock	The Long Service Medal
Tan Kay Chuan	The Long Service Medal
Tan Lay Hoon	The Long Service Medal
Wong Lee Yuen	The Long Service Medal
Chng Kim Chuan	The Long Service Medal (Military)
Ong Chun Teck	The Long Service Medal (Military)







PGA VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT TALK: TOUCHING LIVES AND HONOURING OUR SENIORS

15 JUNE 2017, EVANS ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

More than 25 members attended this talk held to encourage members to volunteer as Pioneer Generation Ambassadors (PGAs). Members discovered the meaningful role that PGAs play, which includes reaching out to pioneers to explain the benefits of the Pioneer Generation Package and other support schemes.



READING, UNDERSTANDING AND ANALYSING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR SENIORS

3-7 JULY 2017, ACTIVITY ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Twenty-two seniors learnt to make sense of financial statements in this workshop*. Mr Chua Joon Eng – formerly the Chairman of NUS' Executive Development Programme and Vice-Dean of NUS' Faculty of Business Administration – facilitated the course, which aimed to help participants make better financial decisions.



JOURNEY IN INK 8 JULY-26 AUGUST 2017, CLUNY ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Members and quests learnt techniques of Chinese ink painting and calligraphy, such as dilution and composition, in this course* conducted by Ms Chi Pin Lay - an Associate Lecturer at Republic Polytechnic who has sold more than 100 paintings. The course included small-group discussions and combined theory and practice to keep participants engaged.



APPRECIATING AND WRITING SHORT STORIES 11 JULY-3 AUGUST 2017, ACTIVITY ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Thirteen members learnt to craft stories in this course* facilitated by Mr Chua Joon Eng, formerly the Chairman of NUS' Executive Development Programme and Vice-Dean of NUS' Faculty of Business Administration. Members were taught crucial aspects of a story, such as creating the plot and characters, as well as different narrative techniques.

*HELD IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL SILVER ACADEMY





HANYU PINYIN WORKSHOP7 AUGUST-11 SEPTEMBER 2017, ACTIVITY ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

More than 20 seniors picked up Hanyu Pinyin essentials like the correct vowel and consonant sounds, and four main tones of Mandarin in this workshop* organised by the Active-Ageing & Lifelong Learning Sub-Committee. The month-long course was conducted by Ms Ng Lee Eng, a certified Hanyu Pinyin teacher.

MONTESSORI APPROACH FOR PERSONS WITH DEMENTIA 19 SEPTEMBER-10 OCTOBER 2017, CLUNY ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

How can we beat dementia? Conducted by Dr Fong Chiu Yan and Joseph Cheah – qualified trainers from the Montessori for Dementia Care – the course* helped seniors better understand the disease and its challenges, and covered the principles of Montessori-based dementia programming.

*HELD IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL SILVER ACADEMY

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8 JULY 2017, ACTIVITY ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Mr KC Tan – a Google Web Analytics Professional with experience in search engine optimisation and website conversions – taught members and guests how to increase traffic to their websites and create profitable email marketing campaigns. Other topics covered during the session included how to recover from a Google ban and preparing a website for traffic.



HEARING LOSS: ITS CAUSES AND MANAGEMENT25 JULY 2017, DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

This session gave participants a better understanding of hearing loss. Senior Consultant Dr Loh Woei Shyang and Senior Audiologist Mr Perumal Balakuthalingam from National University Hospital's Department of Otolaryngology stressed the importance of managing the condition instead of ignoring it.





21: ENDLESS CONNECTIONS 6 SEPTEMBER 2017, GUILD AND COLLEGE FUNCTION ROOMS, SUNTEC CITY GUILD HOUSE

Members from the Alumni Development and University Relations (ADUR) Sub-Committee and Distinguished Universities Alumni League (DUAL) had a very different networking experience at this unique and structured session – which was guided by Shazaf Moonis, Founder and CEO of Linkked, a company that focuses on facilitating, connecting and building relationships in the professional sphere. Members thoroughly enjoyed the session with Ms Moonis and the opportunities to mingle with one another. Sandra Kwok, a NUSS member, said, "It was more interactive than the usual networking events I attend and the speaker was good!"





ART EXHIBITION & DIALOGUE WITH AWARD-WINNING

ARTIST YOKO CHOI 28 JULY 2017, THE CHILL-LAB, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

For about eight weeks, the NUSS Gallery was transformed into a meditative space, featuring artworks by Yoko Choi, an awardwinning artist known for her use of repetitive strokes. On 28 July, members also enjoyed a dialogue with Ms Choi, where she shared how mark-making techniques can enhance mindfulness.



CREATE YOUR OWN ESSENTIAL OIL BLENDS

5 AUGUST 2017, ACTIVITY ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Essential oils can help relieve stress and improve well-being. In this workshop led by Ms Ruby Tan, a UK-certified aromatherapist and aroma artisan, members were taught to create their own blends of natural, safe and effective oils for emotional well-being. They also learnt the science behind blending and mixing oils, and how to identify the different aromas.











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FEATURE

ingapore celebrates its 52nd birthday this year. While the nation has much to rejoice for its exceptional progress over the years, the changing global climate has placed several challenges in its way. These include a rapidly ageing population and soaring healthcare costs, competition from other countries, and the rising threat of terrorism.

In his National Day Rally speech on August 20, Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong zoomed in on three specific issues that the nation needs to address – the quality of pre-school education, rising incidence of diabetes, and Singapore's Smart Nation initiative.

"These are the things we must do now, work on now, to build our future so that Singaporeans can start right, stay healthy and live smart at every age," PM Lee said in his opening remarks at the Institute of Technical Education College Central.

Health and the elderly

On the healthcare front, PM Lee declared a war on diabetes, which is especially rampant among the elderly here. In fact, three in 10 Singaporeans aged over 60 have diabetes.

In his speech, PM Lee was candid about what he called a serious problem and proposed four ways to fight it: regular medical check-ups, more exercise, a strict diet, and cutting down on soft drinks with high sugar content.

Nursing officer Judith Lee felt that bringing up diabetes as a key national issue was "like hitting the nail on the head".

"Singapore has the second highest proportion of diabetes among developed nations, and we need to address this because it is a threat to the nation's socio-



Working smart

Beyond addressing healthcare issues, Singapore faces intense global competition and will increasingly need to maintain its competitive edge through various initiatives. Singapore is working towards becoming a Smart Nation that leverages technology to create new business opportunities and boost productivity.

PM Lee said: "The world is changing. Unless we change with it, we will fall behind. Singapore must always stay with the leaders to attract talent and business, to live up to our own expectations of what we ought to be and can be."

Education will play a key part in ensuring that Singapore has the talent and skills to realise its Smart Nation vision.

Part of this will involve ensuring quality pre-school education to help level the playing field for all Singaporeans – a major focus of PM Lee's speech.

To achieve this, the Government has increased its annual spending on pre-schools by more than double in the last five years – from

\$360 million in 2012 to \$840 million this year. This will be further raised to \$1.7 billion by 2022.

Former Senior Parliamentary Secretary (Education), Mr Maidin Packer, who is also Chairman of the Creative Malay Arts & Culture, gave the thumbs-up to improving the quality of early education in Singapore.

However, Mr Packer warned against *kiasu* behaviour. "It's true that a weak education in our kids' formative years can have long-term implications on their future but we should not overload them with too many things as it could backfire," he said. "What's important is that we nurture in our kids a love for reading, learning and exploring; to imbibe in them learning skills and inquisitiveness; and to make it their habit and culture. That should be our main concern."

Keeping vigilant

On the national security front, Singapore faces rising terrorism threats from groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), which has listed Singapore "What's important is that we nurture in our kids a love for reading, learning and exploring; to imbibe in them learning skills and inquisitiveness; and to make it their habit and culture."

Mr Maidin Packer, Former Senior Parliamentary Secretary (Education) as one of the member countries in the anti-ISIS coalition.

In August 2016, individuals were arrested in Batam for plotting a rocket attack on Marina Bay. To counter this threat, the Government launched the SGSecure mobile app in 2016.

The app enables the police and the Singapore Civil Defence Force to send alerts to the public during emergencies. It also allows the public to report suspicious activities.

According to the SGSecure website, the initiative "is a national movement to sensitise, train and mobilise the community to play a part to prevent and deal with a terrorist attack."

In PM Lee's speech, it was clear that the Government is very serious about public safety and security. An example of this is the plan to form an integrated national sensor network by turning every lamp post into a smart lamp post. This means that lamp posts will be able to gather and transmit information from cameras and sensors islandwide. They can even be used to predict situations like rowdy crowds.

The Government is also working on using artificial intelligence to analyse data from various sources – such as the police and Land Transport Authority – to detect anomalies and pre-empt situations such as unruly crowds, in an effort to further boost public security.

PM Lee cited an example of when this can be useful: "If we have an incident like the Boston bombings, our Home Team can assess the situation quickly and respond promptly, or even preempt it from happening."

The road ahead

Moving forward, lawyer Jayagopi Jayaram said that Singaporeans should focus on tackling important challenges like public health, Singapore's ageing population and national security, instead of matters beyond our control like the state of the world economy. "These issues are directly relevant to Singaporeans, especially the future generation, who will not only be driving the nation's economic needs but also facing the challenges that come with an ageing population," said Mr Jayaram, who is also a grassroots leader at Nee Soon East.

Professor Tan Ern Ser, Associate
Professor of Sociology at the National University of Singapore (NUS)
and Faculty Associate at the Institute
of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew
School of Public Policy, said PM Lee's
message is a loud call to action. "It
reminds Singaporeans to make use of
the available opportunities to achieve
social mobility; to play a big part in
taking care of their health; and to
embrace technology for security."



KEY INITIATIVES FROM THE NATIONAL DAY RALLY 2017

Education

Additional 30% or 40,000 more pre-school places in the next five years

Early Years Centres for children aged two months to four years

50 MOE-run kindergartens in the next five years

A new National Institute of Early Childhood Development to train and raise the standards of pre-school teachers

Health

\$5 health check-ups for Singaporeans aged 40 and above

Smart Nation

More CCTV
cameras in
public places,
and combining
different sources
of data, such
as social media
videos, mobile
phones and
LTA cameras,
to boost public
safety and
security

Smart lamp posts with sensors that can gather and transmit data from cameras and sensors islandwide, to detect anomalies and predict situations like unruly crowds

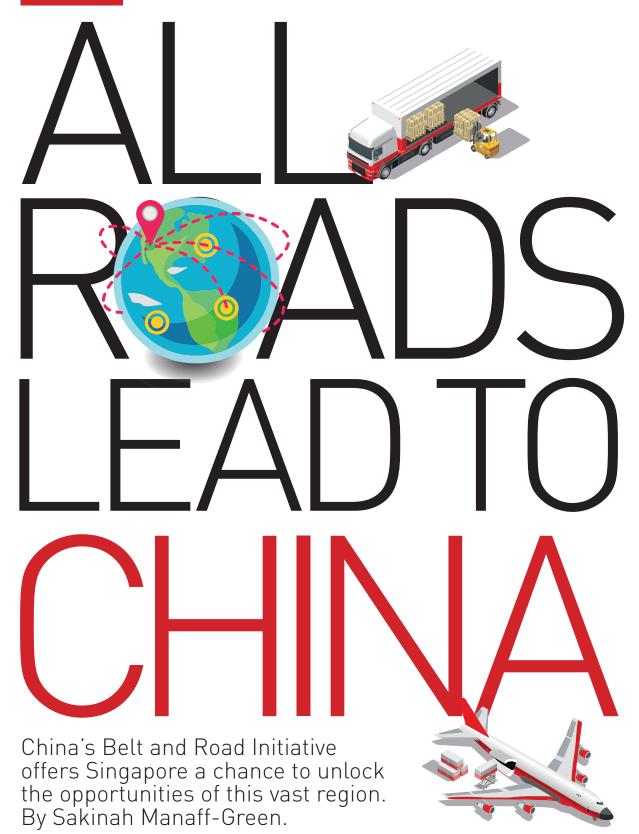
A new mobile app, Parking.sg, to replace physical parking coupons

"[PM Lee's message] reminds Singaporeans to make use of the available opportunities to achieve social mobility; to play a big part in taking care of their health; and to embrace technology for security."

Professor Tan Ern Ser, Associate Professor of Sociology, NUS



ON THE RED DOT



n May, China unveiled a bold and ambitious plan that is poised to go down in history as the largest organised cross-national development programme to improve global trade and economic integration.

Known as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), it seeks to revitalise an ancient trade route between China and Europe, unlocking the enormous potential in these largely untapped areas of Central Asia.

The BRI strategy uses free-trade agreements and infrastructure projects – including roads, power plants, seaports and railways – to develop a modern Silk Road spanning some 65 countries, representing 60 per cent of the world's population and around a third of global gross domestic product (GDP). It encompasses an economic land "belt" through Eurasia, and a maritime "road" to connect coastal Chinese cities to Africa and the Mediterranean.

"Today, dozens of countries in Eurasia feel that infrastructure is the most important public good – and China is the leading provider of it," wrote Mr Parag Khanna, a Senior Fellow at the NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, in a recent opinion piece published on the *China Daily* website.

As it stands, more than
US\$1 trillion has been pledged,
mostly by China. In 2015, the Asian
Infrastructure Investment Bank
(AIIB) was established with
US\$100 billion in initial capital,
while last December the Chinese
government set up the US\$40 billion
Silk Road Fund for BRI projects.

Maximising strengths

As a key node in Southeast Asia, Singapore has a number of intrinsic strengths that it can utilise to enhance its value proposition for BRI projects.



transportation hub with a deep

ecosystem of logistics, project

development and service firms. It has a mature sustainable mindset, the technologies to design and optimise production and consumption chains, as well as the ability to create a green supply chain system. This can help BRI nations address their resource and environmental problems, reduce environmental costs, and find the best balance between utilising resources and protecting the environment.

The Republic is in no short supply of world-class local companies that can partner Chinese companies. Singapore businesses have the added advantage over other firms because of the country's long working experience with China, which can prove useful in driving joint collaboration around the region.

"The Singapore brand is widely recognised and trusted internationally, so we should take a positive approach towards BRI," said Mr Tan Chee Yong, Director, DP Architects (China).

Mining opportunities

On the face of it, the industries that stand to benefit most



are infrastructure, power, transportation and water. Then there are the sectors that offer critical behind-the-scenes skills and know-how that determine the success of a project.

According to Professor Tan Kong Yam, Co-Director, Asia Competitiveness Institute, NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, "you should not be mistaken that if a railway is built in Indonesia, Singapore has no role to play." He recently told delegates at the 12th China-Singapore Forum that "Singapore may not be building the railway, but the master planning, the financing, everything is done in Singapore."

Singapore firms with an

existing footprint in BRI countries are well-placed to capitalise on opportunities. DP Architects, for instance, has stayed a step ahead of the competition with One Global Studio – its international network of offices.

"One Global Studio harnesses DP Architects' local market knowledge, extensive understanding of the local culture and expectations, and competitive pool of global talents across our 17 international offices and eight specialist services. This has allowed us to deliver rich, holistic and seamlessly integrated design solutions," said Mr Tan.

Surbana Jurong, which has been instrumental in the development of Singapore's townships and industrial estates in the last 50 years, is banking on its capabilities in niche areas such as urban and industrial planning, and ports and coastal engineering.

"These are areas that Singapore is renowned for. This is our competitive advantage which not many companies can boast of," said Mr Wong Heang Fine, Group CEO, Surbana Jurong.





Relationship with China

The success of Singapore companies in BRI projects is underpinned by the Republic's stable relationship with China, which dates back to the 1970s. There is a lot at stake – China is Singapore's largest trading partner, contributing to more than 20 per cent of its GDP; Singapore is also China's largest foreign investor.

More than 6,500 Chinese companies have set up shop in the city-state, reflecting their interest to go global through Singapore or via joint partnerships with Singapore companies.

At the same time, China remains the top expansion destination for Singapore companies. In this case, the development of government-to-government (G2G) projects like those in Chongqing and more recently, Guangxi, is pivotal in helping Singapore businesses gain access to the Chinese market.

"The Singapore brand is widely recognised and trusted internationally, so we should take a positive approach towards the Belt and Road Initiative."

Mr Tan Chee Yong, Director, DP Architects (China)

Singapore is already benefiting from the opportunities offered by BRI, with China's investments in Singapore alone making up about a third of its total investments in BRI countries, revealed Singapore's Home Affairs and Law Minister K Shanmugam at the Asia Economic Forum at NUS in August.

Singapore's investments in China accounted for 85 per cent of total inbound investments from BRI countries. As the BRI continues to grow, Singapore should continue to embrace incoming opportunities.

"BRI is a good platform for Singapore to conduct its economic diplomacy with China as it represents the Chinese leadership's most important economic legacy, and an opportunity for the Republic to benefit economically from meaningful projects that can enhance regional connectivity," Mr Tan concluded.



SKILL UP

SAVVY SENIORS

Picking up technology in your senior years is easy when you have the right tools and motivation.

By April Zara Chua.

rs Innira Nair, 64, recalls the 1970s when she used typewriters and telex machines to do her job.

Today, she uses her iPhone and iPad for everything, from communicating with

friends to making flight bookings and watching movies.

She particularly loves FaceTime, Viber and WhatsApp. "Previously, I spent quite a bit on calls to stay in touch with family and friends overseas. Now it's much cheaper and easier with these apps."

The lifestyle consultant is an example of a senior citizen who has embraced technology and all it has to offer. However, she admits that it is no easy feat.



FEATURE

STAYING RELEVANT

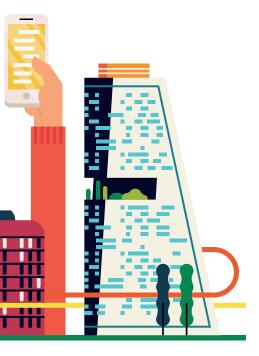
At 58, Mr Dave Goh is nowhere close to retiring. The business consultant advises local golf course operators on how they can boost their services for members.

For instance, he suggested that golf courses offer their members 'digital caddies' in the form of iPads, which are installed with a customised software that uses GPS technology. "It gives golfers real-time information on the course, such as the distance of a ball from the hole played," Mr Goh explained.

With a keen mind for technology, Mr Goh is confident he will be able to contribute to the workforce well into his 70s.

He also believes that technology offers a way for the older generation to stay relevant.

"Most of my friends are dreading retirement," he said. "I tell them this: 'If we want to remain in the workforce, we need to learn to speak the digital language."



STRONG SUPPORT

The good news is many seniors are stepping up to the challenges of the digital world. A 2014 survey by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) found a 14% increase in computer use among seniors aged 50 to 59 and a 11% increase among those aged 60 and above. The

survey also revealed that more than three quarters of those aged 50 to 59 and one-third of people aged 60 and above used a smartphone to access the Internet – which indicated that some of Singapore's older generation was already plugged in. But what about the rest?

In 2007, IMDA launched the Silver Infocomm Initiative (SII) to help promote IT awareness and literacy among the elderly. So far, the SII has helped 150,000 seniors islandwide learn technology through classes, workshops, boot camps and learning hubs.

Then there is IMDA's Silver IT Fest – a series of roadshows, seminars and IT classes aimed at teaching seniors how to use a computer and social media, check health information and book trips online.

At a recent Silver IT Fest roadshow at Toa Payoh HDB Hub Atrium, held from 22 to 24 September, many seniors were keen to attend the free Tutorials@ Learning Island to learn about lifestyle, entertainment and transport apps, such as Toggle, Facebook and Uber.

The People's Association (PA) also has a Seniors for Smart Nation programme, which offers 25 classes across more than 30 community centres. The courses are categorised

"If we want to remain in the workforce, we need to learn to speak the digital language."

Mr Dave Goh Business Consultant into four themes:
I-Connect, I-Lifestyle,
I-Inno and I-Office.
Through these courses,
seniors can learn to use
social media and even
set up their own online
businesses – something
that Mr Goh believes
is useful for those who
want to semi-retire. "You
get to run an online
business from home and
earn some income," he
said. "E-commerce is also

a big thing in the digital economy, so it's one way to survive in the future of work."

Those thinking about starting an online business after retirement can sign up for a range of tech workshops at the National University of Singapore Society (NUSS). For instance, seniors can pick up digital skills through courses like Automating Reports and Dashboards, which is offered at the Club.

TAKING THE FIRST STEP

All this support can only mean one thing – Singapore is well-prepared to lead its older generation into the future. However, in order to truly make this work, seniors themselves need to be open to learning and embracing technology.

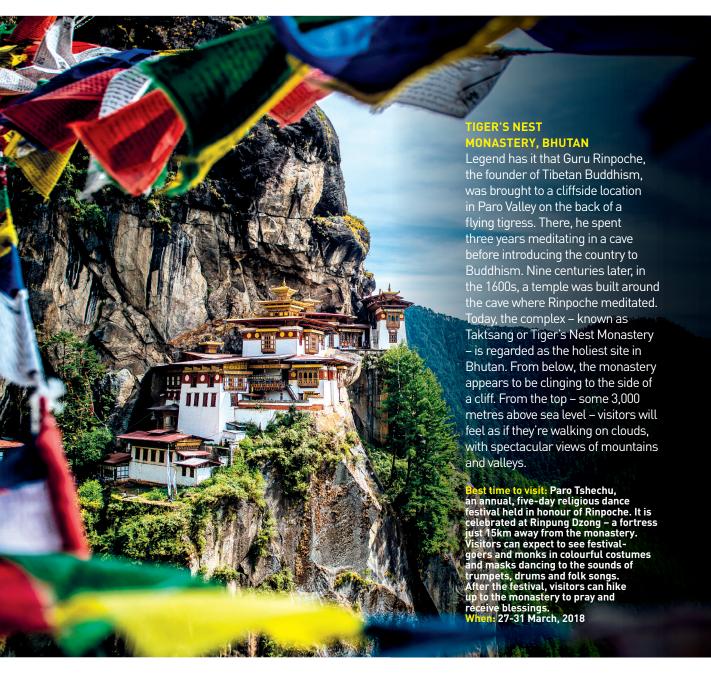
"Having initiative and the right mindset can go a long way," Mr Goh said. "We also need to be more confident in ourselves."

For those who are still afraid of using technology, Mrs Nair had this to say: "It may be frustrating at first but you will eventually discover how it makes life easier and stress-free."

Ready to start? Sign up for a course today! IMDA: IMSilver.sg

IMDA: IMSilver.sg PA: pa.gov.sg NUSS: nuss.org.sq

Visiting religious sites during festivals is the best way to discover a city's customs. These four are great places to start, says Lisa-Ann Lee and Kristin Cheang.



FEATURE



CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA, THE PHILIPPINES

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, this church is a living legacy of the centuries-old culture and deep Catholic roots of Miagao, located in the province of Iloilo – which is known for its Spanish colonial churches. It was constructed in 1786 by Spanish Augustinian missionaries and boasts Baroque-Romanesque architecture fused with Chinese, Muslim and local elements. A popular background for photos is the relief sculpture of St Christopher carrying the child Jesus carved on the church's façade.

Best time to visit: The Salakayan Festival, the highlight of which is a street-dance drama showcasing the lore and customs of the Miagao people. It is celebrated in Miagao town, close to the church. When: 1-6 February, 2018

GOLDEN TEMPLE, INDIA

Located in Punjab, the Golden Temple is the Sikhs' most sacred place. Built in 1577, the temple is surrounded by Sarovar, a rectangular shaped lake, and its dome is gilded in 750kg of real gold. As imposing as it may look, the temple is open to people of all religions, as symbolised by its four entrances. It is also home to the world's largest communal kitchen, which is run by volunteers and feeds up to 100,000 people a day for free.

Best time to visit: Vaisakhi, the Sikh New Year, is celebrated on the grounds of the Golden Temple and usually marked by feasting, folk music, *bhangra* dancing and fairs.

When: 14 April, 2018



BATU CAVES, MALAYSIA

This 400-million-year-old complex was once just a limestone hill with caves. In the late 1800s, an Indian trader – fascinated by the *vel* (spear)-shaped entrance of the main cave – began promoting Batu Caves as a place to worship Lord Murugan, the Hindu god of war who is often depicted carrying a *vel*. Today, Batu Caves is fronted by a 43-metre-tall gold-plated statue of Lord Murugan. However, getting to the Temple Cave that houses a shrine dedicated to him is not for the weak-hearted: visitors will have to climb 272 steps to reach it.

Best time to visit: Thaipusam, a festival dedicated to Lord Murugan. On this day, visitors get to see devotees dance in a state of trance as they walk towards the temple, while others carry milk pots and kavadi – a wooden pole and arch with baskets of offerings attached on each end.

When: 31 January, 2018

FEATURE

USEYOUR HANDS

Find out what crafting and other handson activities can do for your mind, body and soul, says Patricia Bazzard.

Calligraphy

There's something meditative about the act of creating beautiful word forms on paper, either through Chinese brush strokes or a flat-nibbed pen. As patience, focus and discipline are needed, concentration is heightened, and breathing slows down.

Woodworking

Learning something manually complex and precise like woodworking is mentally stimulating and develops handeye coordination – bringing your mind and body into a state of equilibrium.

Painting, sculpting and pottery making

Immersing yourself in a craft provides not only a creative but an emotional outlet. It is a sort of therapy – soothing your mind while you use your hands. It also alters your perspective, training you to notice and appreciate aesthetics, and gives you a fresh eye for details.

Where to start?

NUSS offers regular hands-on courses and workshops ranging from calligraphy to sculpting and bento-making. Stay updated at www.nuss.org.sg

Cooking and baking

In a foodie culture like ours, few things can be more satisfying than serving up something delicious and saying, "I made this!" Besides its social aspects, learning to cook and bake tunes us in with all our senses, providing food for the mind and soul.





MIND-BODY BENEFITS

AUTONOMY Enjoy the freedom of being your own boss and set your own targets. You're answerable to no one but yourself as to how well you do at a craft or activity.

2A SENSE OF CALM
Concentrating on an interesting task gets you "in the zone" – similar to a meditative state.

3 MENTAL AGILITY, PHYSICAL DEXTERITY

Learning something new and unfamiliar will keep your mind and reflexes sharp. It stimulates neuroplasticity, or rewiring of the brain, which will stand you in good stead as the years go by.

Ascording to Pablo Picasso, "Art washes from the soul the dust of everyday life." The pleasure you derive from creative self-expression can help clear the cobwebs and chase the blues away.





The Graduate Club

Kent Ridge Guild House

Agnes Phua at 6586 3771 agnesphua@nuss.org.sg

Ong Wei Li at 6586 3772 weili@nuss.org.sg

Suntec City Guild House

Prabavathy at 6395 6626 prabavathy@nuss.org.sg

Visit us at www.nuss.org.sg





^Every first Sunday of the month.
*Lunch plate comes with a glass of wine / beer / fruit punch.

Image used is for illustration purpose only.

For enquiries, please call 6779 1811, email scghmro@nuss.org.sg or visit www.nuss.org.sg



BBQ NIGHTS

Every last Thursday and Friday of the month

Café on the Ridge

6pm to 9.30pm

Free flow of salad and soup from the Salad Bar*

Choose your main dish from our delicious barbeque selection below:

\$23 per set

- Baby Back Pork
 Ribs
- □ Cumin Lamb Chop
 with Brown Sauce
- ⇒ Slipper Lobster and Cajun Chicken Leg

\$19 per set

- ⇒ Salmon Steak with Lemon Butter Sauce



All mains are served with baked potatoes and corn on the cob.

*Only applicable for BBQ Night main orders. Sharing and transferring of food are not allowed.

For reservations, please call 6779 1811 or email krgh_cafe@nuss.org.sg

SUNTEC CITY GUILD HOUSE

BE REWARDED FOR LATE DINING



Dine from **8.30pm** and be rewarded with









1 weekday Golden Village cinema ticket (valued at \$8.50).



\$5 Comfort / Citicab gift voucher.

Spend at least \$50 to receive one reward. Spend at least \$100 to receive two rewards.



RECTO

KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

TEL: 6779 1811

Operating hours Sun to Thurs (including PH) - 8am to 12am

Fri, Sat & eve of PH - 8am to 2am

The Scholar Lunch: Mon to Fri & eve of PH - 12pm to 3pm **Chinese Restaurant**

Sat, Sun & PH - 11.30am to 3pm Dinner: Sun to Thurs & PH – 6pm to 10pm Fri to Sat & eve of PH - 6pm to 10.30pm

Café on the Ridge

Sun to Thurs & PH – 12pm to 10pm Fri, Sat & eve of PH – 12pm to 10.30pm Breakfast is available from 9am to 11am on

weekends and public holidays Mon to Fri (except PH) – Closed from 3pm to 6pm

Sun to Thurs & PH – 11am to 12am The Ridge Bar

Fri, Sat & eve of PH - 11am to 2am

The Chill-Lab Daily - (including eve of PH & PH) 4pm to 12am

The Right Note Karaoke Lounge Mon to Thurs & PH - 1pm to 12am

Fri & eve of PH - 1pm to 2am Sat - 12pm to 2am

Sun - 12pm to 12am

Sun to Thurs & PH – 11am to 12am (last Jackpot

change of notes/redemption tickets at 11.30pm) Fri, Sat & eve of PH – 11am to 2am (last change of notes/redemption tickets at 1.30am) From 1 November 2017, the new operating hours are:

Daily (including eve of PH & PH) –11am to 11pm (last change of notes/redemption tickets at 10.30pm)

Swimming Pool Daily - 7am to 10pm

Closed every Wed from 9.30am to 11.30am (for cleaning)

Fitness Centre/ Aerobics Room

Daily - 7am to 10pm

Ridge Reading Room Mon to Fri & eve of PH - 9am to 9pm

Sat, Sun & PH - 9am to 10pm

Children's Playroom Daily - 9am to 10pm

SUNTEC CITY GUILD HOUSE

TEL: 6779 1811

Sun to Thurs (including PH) – 8am to 12am Operating hours

Fri, Sat & eve of PH – 8am to 2am

The Bistro Mon to Sun & PH: Lunch - 11.30am to 3pm

Dinner - 6pm to 10pm

The Bar Sun to Thurs & PH - 11.30am to 12am

Fri, Sat & eve of PH - 11.30am to 2am

K Room

Mon to Thurs - 5pm to 12am Fri & eve of PH - 5pm to 2am

Sat - 12pm to 2am Sun & PH - 12pm to 12am

Jackpot Room Sun to Thurs & PH – 11am to 12am (last change

of notes/redemption tickets at 11.30pm) Fri, Sat & eve of PH – 11am to 2am (last change of

notes/redemption tickets at 1.30am) From 1 November 2017, the new operating hours are: Daily (including eve of PH & PH) –11am to 11pm (last change of notes/redemption tickets at 10.30pm)

For the full list of operating hours of our facilities, please visit www.nuss.org.sg

Stay connected with NUSS

Update your contact details via email: mship@nuss.org.sg

THE SECRETARIAT MANAGEMENT TEAM

SECRETARIAT secretariat@nuss.org.sq

THE GRADUATE MAGAZINE thegraduate@nuss.org.sg CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS comms@nuss.org.sg

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REGULAR HAPPENINGS @ NUSS

BADMINTON

Tuesdays, Wednesdays @ KRGH: 7pm - 10pm Saturdays @ KRGH: 2pm - 4pm Sundays @ KRGH: 3pm - 6pm Contact Gaby at gabyleong@nuss.org.sg

BALUT Every last Wednesday @ KRGH: 7pm - 11pm Contact Santhi at santhi@nuss.org.sg

BILLIARDS

Mondays @ KRGH: 6pm – 10pm Thursdays @ KRGH: 6pm – 10pm Contact Jaz at jazchua@nuss.org.sg

Monthly competitions @ Superbowl SAFRA Mount Faber Contact Santhi at santhi@nuss.org.sg **BOWLING**

CYCLING

Various venues Contact Kee Wei at keewei@nuss.org.sg

Monthly Medals @ various venues Contact Kelly at kellykoh@nuss.org.sg GOLF

RUNNING

Wednesdays @ KRGH: 7pm Sundays @ various places: 6.30am Contact Kee Wei at keewei@nuss.org.sg

SOCCER

CHOIR

Various venues Contact Santhi at santhi@nuss.org.sg

SQUASH

Mondays @ KRGH: 6pm - 10pm Thursdays @ KRGH: 6pm - 10pm Saturdays @ KRGH 4pm - 6pm Contact Santhi at santhi@nuss.org.sg

TABLE-TENNIS

Tuesdays @ KRGH: 7pm - 10pm Thursdays @KRGH: 7pm - 10pm Saturdays @ KRGH: 2pm - 6pm Contact Kelly at kellykoh@nuss.org.sg

Wednesdays & Fridays @ KRGH: 5pm – 10pm Sundays @ KRGH: 2pm – 7pm Contact Kee Wei at keewei@nuss.org.sg **TENNIS**

Thursdays @ KRGH: 7.30pm – 10pm Contact Santhi at santhi@nuss.org.sg

Regular activities @ various venues Contact Gaby at gabyleong@nuss.org.sg KIDS' CLUB

TUESDAY CONNECTIONS Tuesdays @ KRGH: 10.30am – 6pm Regular activities at various venues Contact Kelly at kellykoh@nuss.org.sg

DANCESPORT

Tuesdays @ KRGH: 7.30pm - 11pm Contact Jaz at jazchua@nuss.org.sg

Every 4th Thursday @ KRGH: 7pm - 10pm Contact Gaby at gabyleong@nuss.org.sg TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Regular activities @ KRGH Contact Santhi at santhi@nuss.org.sg MUSIC

DRAMAWORKS Regular activities @ KRGH Contact Santhi at santhi@nuss.org.sg

Regular activities @ KRGH Contact Jaz at jazchua@nuss.org.sg **ARTS CONNECTIONS**

For more information and registration details, please contact the respective personnel.

OVERSEAS CONNECTIONS

NUSS members enjoy reciprocity with graduate associations around the world. For more information, please contact Nor Azira at 6586 7056 or email azira@nuss.org.sg

Chulalongkorn University Alumni Association - Bangkok, Thailand Hong Kong University Alumni Association - Hong Kong

Persatuan Alumni Universiti Malaya - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
The Graduate Union of the University of Melbourne - Melbourne, Australia

 $\textbf{The Royal Northern and University Club -} \ \textbf{Aberdeen, United Kingdom}$

The University Club of Western Australia - Perth, Australia
The University Women's Club - London, United Kingdom
The Yale Club of New York City - New York, United States of America

University Club of Denver - Colorado, United States of America

University Club of Montreal - Quebec, Canada

University House, Australian National University - Canberra, Australia University of Saint Paul - Minnesota, United States of America University of San Francisco - California, United States of America

MAKING MEMORIES

CONTEST WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE EXPERIENCE AT NUSS?

If you enjoy our events, dining options and meeting new people, we want to hear from you! Share with us your favourite experiences at NUSS from any of the four options below and stand a chance to win a 2D1N staycation at Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore, worth up to \$450!

Simply visit www.facebook.com/NUSSociety to take part in the contest.

Attending our events and workshops



Building networks and spending time with loved ones



Enjoying exclusive membership benefits



Enjoying our facilities



The contest runs from 2 October to 30 November 2017, 11:59pm. Terms and conditions apply. This contest is open to NUSS members only. Your entry should include only the options above and you may pick more than one option. One lucky winner will win a 2D1N staycation and he/she will be notified via Facebook.

IN THE GRADUATE (JUL - SEP 2017), WE ASKED YOU TO SHARE WITH US YOUR FAVOURITE LOCAL DISHES.

Congratulations to Tan Aik Ling, Quek Li Huan and Tan Sim Seng for your winning entries!

5 TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL **NETWORKING EXPERIENC**

Positive goals and outlook are the ingredients for a fun and memorable networking session. Here are some tips on how to "nail it" at your next event.

BE PREPARED

Everyone has their own strengths and interests. Make sure you know which of yours you want to talk about to avoid awkward lulls in the conversation. It is also useful to read up on current topics, as these are often conversation starters.

FOCUS ON OTHERS

Networking is about forging long-term relationships. By learning about other people, rather than focusing only on your own goals, you are more likely to make meaningful connections.

KEEP AN OPEN MIND

Don't judge a book by its cover, and don't judge an event's quality by its ticket price. You never know the knowledge, connections and potential that the people attending might bring to the table.

BREAK THE ICE

Don't be afraid to start a conversation, share opinions or give advice. In fact, going out of your way to make suggestions or offer advice is a great way to make an impression and ensure people remember you.

FOLLOW UP

Relationships need nurturing. Keep in touch with your new connections, even if you don't have anything new to share. It only takes a minute to send a quick text or email.



Visit www.nuss.org.sq for our latest events and activities, where you can also network and meet new people!

Give us your feedback and suggestions on The Graduate. Please include your full name and membership number and email your feedback to secretariat@nuss.org.sg



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